

Teachers notes for "What Style"

Performance Information

Set-up time - 30 minutes
Pack-up time - 30 minutes

Duration - 55 minutes (NB: all times are approximate)

Performance area - 4 metres across by 2.5 metres deep,

- a power outlet

- audience seated directly in front with centre isle

Age Grouping - mixed age range in each session works best

About the Show

What Style is a show about the effects of differing styles of music on our choice and appreciation of it. There is a deliberate 'tongue-in-cheek' approach to the whole show, in order that the children and teachers have as much fun from the learning experience as possible.

The show is designed to cover the musical curriculum of all States in Australia by demonstrating:-

Positive Attitude Towards Music
Individualized Music Response
Active Participation
Increased Musical Enjoyment
Musical Awareness and Discrimination
Pitch, Beat, Rhythm, Timing, Tempo, Dynamics
Musical Confidence and Knowledge

Gillian also shows her audience what is involved in the specific song writing field and how different styles of music evolve because of the individual's preferences and individuality. Her positive energy, love of music and ability to involve her audience produces hilarious and surprising results and will increase the children's enjoyment and knowledge of music and their desire to 'have a go'.

About the performer

Gillian Eastoe is a highly talented song writer and performer. She brings with her a wealth of experience from years as a rock and roll and blues singer and songwriter. She is a trained pre-school teacher and taught for seven years before being signed to Polygram Records as a performer. She spent four years touring with a rock and roll band before starting a family of her own.

Signed to ABC Records in 1989, Gillian now has three children's albums to her credit, "Jellybean Jar", "Insects and Bugs", and "The Intergalactical Expedition into the Far Reaches and Back" album and video, and as a prolific songwriter, has over 30 songs out on various other children's albums and projects.

Gillian will be accompanied by a professional musician on guitar or keyboards (either Terry Murray or Michael 'China' Walker depending on availability)

Pre-performance suggestions

(something artistic)

Discuss some musical styles eg, blues, opera, classical, country & western, punk, jazz, pop, rap and rock and roll plus any others that come up in discussion.

Suggest that kids draw their favorite cartoon character or cut out a magazine model and dress or draw the character in the clothes which relate to their favorite style of music. The aim being to become aware of the different affect the styles have created eg the obvious difference between operatic and rap clothing. The complete artwork could be displayed during the show.

Post-performance activity

(something musical)

Suggest the class find a poem or the lyrics to an old nursery rhyme. When the lyrics have been agreed on, have the class either individually or in small groups create the music for the lyrics (with their favorite style of music in mind) without contact with the other groups or individuals.

After the given period of time, (2 days or so) they then perform their version of the lyrics for the class.

Hopefully, it will be obvious how varied the musical approaches are.